

THE ROMULUS ROMAN

Vol. 118, No. 25

News you can use, news you can trust

Wildcats, heat fall Lady Mustangs in finale
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Romulus man implicated in mortgage scam

Molly Tippen
Staff Writer

A Romulus subcontractor for one of the largest mortgage lenders catering to senior citizens in the area has been charged in a reverse mortgage scheme that defrauded a Belleville woman of \$42,000.

Mortgage broker Anthony James, 43, was charged with one count of uttering and publishing and one count of larceny by conversion at the 34th District Court in front of Judge Brian Oakley. He is being held at the Wayne County Jail in lieu of \$1 million bond.

Oakley scheduled a preliminary examination for June 28 at the court.

James is being charged with stealing \$42,667 from Shirley Schultz, 84. Wayne County Prosecutor Kym Worthy called the allegations against James "despicable."

"By taking this money and engaging in fraud, Mr. James literally tried to steal one of the most valuable assets that Ms. Schultz has

By taking this money and engaging in fraud, Mr. James literally tried to steal one of the most valuable assets that Ms. Schultz has away from her.

Kym Worthy
Wayne County Prosecutor

away from her," she said.

The charges against James stem from a check for \$42,667 that he cashed that should have been forwarded to Schultz after she applied for a reverse mortgage in 2003. But not long after Schultz applied for a mortgage she believed was equal to \$61,325, she began to receive statements from Financial

Freedom Senior Funding of San Francisco that showed Schultz actually borrowed \$103,000, according to prosecutors.

Financial Freedom works with several local brokers in Michigan, and Schultz was referred to Park Place Mortgage in Romulus after she called an 800 number. James was working out of his home for the Livonia-based broker.

During an investigation conducted by the Elder Abuse Unit of the prosecutor's office, it was discovered that James instructed a title insurance company to issue two checks. Both checks were payable to Schultz, but the smaller one had been cashed. James' signature was on the check, and so was Schultz's – but the latter was deemed a forgery.

Park Place Mortgage Vice President Paul Verkerke said that his company had no part in James' alleged activities and that he quit about a year ago. He added that he knew

See Scam, page 3

Man will face trial in fatal shooting

Molly Tippen
Staff Writer

A 20-year-old former high school athlete from Romulus will stand trial for fatally shooting a Wayne man, but his sister – who was also implicated in the crime – will not.

At a pre-trial examination for Roderick Poole and his 18-year-old sister, Whitney Poole, Judge Deborah Thomas dismissed the case against the woman but elected to bind her brother over for trial on first-degree murder and felony murder charges.

His trial will begin on Aug. 8 at the Frank Murphy Hall of Justice in Detroit, again in front of Thomas.

The case against Whitney Poole was dismissed because of insufficient evidence, said Maria Miller, a spokeswoman for the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office. Had the case against the woman proceeded, Whitney Poole could have faced five years behind bars for being an accessory after the fact of a homicide.

The motive for the incident that led to Davis' death is believed to be a conflict between the two men's teenage sisters on Jan. 10. The rift between the two men – who were childhood friends – reached a head at a home on the 6100 block of

See Murder, page 3



Reading is fundamental

Jason Salhaney (far left), the president of the Romulus Education Association and a fourth grade teacher at Halecreek Elementary School, helped two of his students receive 100 books from the Washtenaw Reading Council. Salhaney, a member of the council, raises funds every year to help students who may not be able to afford books cultivate the joy of reading. Salhaney joined Christian Kilgore and Denice Huanosta, the recipients of the books, and Dana Kilgore, Kellie Knight and Barb Jaszcz in admiring the bounty.

Pinnacle project in focus for candidates

Molly Tippen
Staff Writer

Elections in Romulus and the surrounding area may center on one issue this year: The ability to get the long-touted Pinnacle development moving in a forward direction, according to some candidates.

The project, a 1,200-acre mixed-use residential, commercial, retail and technology development that has been under con-

sideration for a parcel of land north of Detroit Metropolitan Airport in both Romulus and Huron Township, is now considered so crucial that whoever is elected to the 15th District of the Wayne County Commission, the 22nd House District and the 8th Senate District must do everything possible to make sure Pinnacle moves from a promise to a reality.

The availability of jobs – which has become considerably

less – is what's driving the pressure, according to one candidate.

County Commissioner Edward Boike, who sits on a panel to investigate the progress of the project and is seeking reelection to his seat, said several factors have weighed the project down, but that it's do-or-die in terms of the overall Wayne County economy.

"It could bring a lot of jobs

See Project, page 3

DATE DUE

Joint dispatch will cease next Monday

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Organizers prepare for Art in the Park

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Sports



Whale bodes

Food

Celebr with fre

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Joint dispatch to cease next Monday

Andrea King
Staff Writer

On Monday, Belleville public safety services will be dispatched through Van Buren Township. The shared dispatch operation between Belleville and Sumpter Township will be closed permanently.

Kathy Plachetzki, a city dispatcher for more than 22 years, said the move will be difficult.

"I've made a lot of good friends in the city and now we'll be gone," she said. "As dispatchers, we're still uncertain where we're going, but if we (dispatch employees) go to Sumpter it will be an exciting adventure, but also a sad one to leave Belleville."

"As a city resident I'm not happy about the change," she added.

Last year, Belleville officials recommended the change to reduce operating costs and improve the level of service.

The change also means Belleville will no longer have the police station open for 24 hours, seven days a week, but will continue to provide 24 hour service to residents, according to officials.

Business hours for the police station will be from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. There will be a call box outside for emergency purposes when the office is closed.

Belleville Police Chief Gene Taylor said while there are changes, the police department is not going away.

"My role as police chief and the role of

Belleville police officers won't change," he said. "There are going to be bumps in the road and issues that arise from the transition. Hopefully, we can solve them as they arise. We're going to make the transition the best we know how."

Belleville officials approved a withdrawal from the Central Dispatch Network, which means if one party withdraws the body is disbanded and equipment is divided equally, according to the agreement. Sumpter Township will now relocate their dispatch operation and once complete, there will be no dispatch personnel at the Belleville municipal building.

"All employees could go down to Sumpter, but they're still waiting to hear," said Taylor. "I think it would definitely be to Sumpter's benefit to have knowledgeable employees with their background on their team."

Belleville officials said most residents will not notice significant changes because the phone numbers to request city services from the police department, fire department and public services will stay the same.

Many people don't see dispatch ever coming back to Belleville.

"I always hope it could be here again because it does benefit residents and other citizens to have a 24-hour safe haven," said Taylor. "We're not the farming community we were 30 years ago. We're reverting back to the way it was when I first started here. It's a step back to the 70s."

Township continues public master planning workshops

The Van Buren Township Planning Commission will host a seventh meeting next week in a series dedicated to the township south side master plan and future land use plan update.

All residents—property owners, business owners, civic and community groups—are encouraged to attend and participate. The two-hour session will start at 7:30 p.m. on June 28 at South Middle School, located at 45201 Owen St., and focus on neighborhood character, lot size and density in the south side of Van Buren Township.

Township officials started the process in February. The south side of the township includes the land area between the I-94 expressway and Bemis Road to the south and Rawsonville Road on the west to Hannan Road on the east.

The process will take up about half of the planning commission 2006 spring and summer regular meeting schedule, while the update is planned to be completed in the late fall of 2006, according to officials.

The agenda will include monthly public meetings and public participation activities designed to elicit and draw out future land

use and development recommendations for residents, property and business owners and the board of trustees. It will also evaluate various development trends, as well as expand strategies to identify, protect and enhance the natural features of the township and the heritage of the community. The purpose, according to a spokesman, is to adopt a vision created by the residents of the township to guide future land use in the southern portion of the township.

Along with township officials, representatives from community planning consultants McKenna Associates from Northville will be on hand to listen to citizens' comments. Audience members are encouraged to actively participate and help identify a shared vision for the future of the south side of the township. Officials hope many people will attend the workshop to ensure the master land use plan update represents the desires of the community, a spokesperson noted. Refreshments will also be served.

For more information, contact the Van Buren Township Department of Developmental Services at (734) 699-8913 or visit www.VanBurenMI.com.

Boys are bitten by rabid bat

A 10-year-old Belleville resident was bit by a rabid bat last week.

According to Belleville Police Chief Gene Taylor, the incident took place at about 5 p.m. on June 11 at the Belle Villa Mobile Home Estates. The victim and several other children were playing in a park in the area when they discovered the bat. One boy picked it up and was bitten on the hand, Taylor said. The victim is alive and was treated for rabies at a nearby hospital.

Police officials contacted the Wayne County Health Department and discovered there was another child who also handled the bat and should be treated, as well. Officials tracked down the 10-year-old Sumpter Township boy who was staying with his mother in Alabama. The boy is receiving treatment there, Taylor said.

Anyone who has any further information or questions can contact the Wayne County Health Department at (734) 727-7000.

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Longtime judge touts new programs, better management

Kristyn Peterson
Staff Writer

In 1994, Tina Brooks-Green's campaign for district judge promised an open door policy.

And 12 years after her election, Brooks-Green says that open door policy will remain in effect if she is returned to the bench at the 34th District Court.

While that policy may not have changed, many other things have, the judge said.

When Brooks-Green was elected, the community and the court had a poor relationship, she said.

"(The open door policy) has been the biggest change in my opinion," Brooks-Green said. "Since then we have developed a good relationship with all five communities and the airport."

Brooks Green credits the open

door policy with restoring those relationships.

"There isn't anything you can't ask me. That's my management philosophy," she said.

The court needed more transparency back then, Brooks-Green added.

"Whether you are hiding something or not, it looks like you are when you don't communicate with the community," she said.

If Brooks-Green is reelected, she hopes to continue to build on the work program, an alternative to imprisonment which allows convicts to serve time working in the community, she said.

"We need to be more aggressive with finding things for them to do, and we need to be a little more innovative in terms of things we can do, instead of just picking up trash," she said.

In addition, Brooks-Green said she will continue to work

with the specialty court programs, specifically sobriety court. Sobriety court is a 24-month program that seeks to reduce substance abuse related offenses within the community through open communication between the judges, probation officers and treatment providers.

"The specialty programs are wonderful for the community, wonderful for participants and wonderful for families trying to keep things local," Brooks-Green said.

Before she was elected to the 34th District Court, Brooks-Green worked with the Michigan Attorney General. Prior to that, Brooks-Green worked in the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office with the juvenile division.

Working in the prosecutor's office was a great opportunity, Brooks-Green said.

"While I was there, I saw a lot

of people do terrible things to their kids. I also saw a lot of people put into terrible situations.

"It was awful, but it gave me compassion in life. It gave me a perspective I wouldn't have gotten anywhere else," she said.

That perspective has helped Brooks-Green when working with her constituency, she said.

"I thrive in an atmosphere where I am able to connect with the community," Brooks-Green said. "When I talk to classes, I always tell students that my job is just like their mom and dad's—I get up and go to work every day. I have a 9 and a 12-year-old."

Brooks-Green's community involvement is what sets her apart, she said.

"I've had 12 years in the seat. I sit on the Apple Fest Board. I'm active in all five communities. I think that is important.

"I think a lot of people would



Tina Brooks-Green

like to be judge, but it takes a certain type of person to do that," Brooks Green said. "I've given 100 percent over the years. With the court the way it is, the community gets more bang for their buck."

News in brief

Time to get ready for school

Just as the school year is coming to a close, the YWCA of Western Wayne County is seeking students for the Michigan School Readiness Program.

The readiness program is a home-based preschool program and is open to all 4-year-old children in Wayne County. Students will receive pre-planned assignments and 30 weekly visits to their homes by a teacher for the duration of the school year.

Children will also be able to take advantage of monthly center visits for socialization experiences and field trips. On the trips, children will join their parents and teachers to travel to various schools, parks, police departments, post offices, fire departments and the Detroit Zoo.

Guest speakers are brought in to speak with parents about various parenting and educational topics, according to program organizers.

The readiness program is also flexible. Teacher visits can be arranged to fit work schedules – evening and weekends are available.

Children already enrolled in other preschool programs may still be signed up for program, as long as it is not affiliated with Head Start, organizers said.

For more information about the YWCA of Western Wayne County Michigan School Readiness Program, call (313) 561-4110.

Romulus teen idol auditions begin

The Romulus Pumpkin Festival will have a Teen Idol competition on Saturday, Sept. 16.

The competition is for singers only, and will be open to men and women between the ages of 13 and 19 years old.

A tape of the contestant singing must be submitted for judging, and will not be returned. The finalists selected during the audition process will go on to perform at the Pumpkin Festival.

All tapes must be received by the Teen Idol Committee by Sept. 1.

Audition tapes and contact information to Romulus Teen Idol, c/o Romulus City Hall, 11111 Wayne Road, Romulus, Mich. 48174.

Trial - Sister dismissed from case, brother faces trial

FROM PAGE 1

Dexter Street.

Davis had unexpectedly shown up at the home, where an argument broke out between him and Roderick and Whitney Poole.

Roderick Poole had a sawed off shotgun, and allegedly pulled the trigger, striking Davis in the chest. Davis died before rescue workers could provide treatment. Other people in the home at the time called 911 to report the shooting.

When police arrived on the

scene, Roderick Poole and his sister were missing. Whitney Poole was apprehended hours later, but her brother's absence prompted a 22-hour manhunt that ended after Roderick Poole's mother received a call from her son and was able to convince him to turn himself in.

He walked into the Romulus Police Department on Olive Street and was immediately arrested on Jan. 12, police said.

Police believed that the younger sibling may have disposed of the gun with her brother, and that is what led to the

charges against her. To date, police have not recovered that weapon.

Davis' death is the only homicide in Romulus in 2006.

Roderick Poole is also charged with using a firearm to commit a felony. If convicted of the more serious charges, he will face life in prison without the possibility of parole. The firearms charge adds an automatic two-year enhancement to any sentence.

Poole is awaiting his next court date at the Wayne County Jail.

Project - Development crucial to economy, election

FROM PAGE 1

back to us, and we have to see it through," he said in an interview last week.

Conceived in the early 1990s as a development that would cater to technology and manufacturing companies, Pinnacle has been a concept through two administrations. The late County Executive Edward McNamara began a land acquisition process that has been described as difficult.

Adding to the lack of progress are changes in the Michigan economy, which include a loss in manufacturing and technology jobs, which makes finding companies to locate in the district more difficult.

Getting the project moving to create jobs and get the Romulus is paramount, said William Crova, a Romulus city councilman.

"Our emphasis is more on getting Metro World center going right now, but we'd like to see Pinnacle materialize," he said. "We'd like to get that land back on the tax roles – it's not just about the jobs."

Recently, the county was able to shore up enough to begin development and infrastructure work on 150 acres of the rural land, but whether the project morphs into McNamara's vision during the next 10 or 15 years

remains to be seen.

Crova said he believes state and county leaders are working hard to recruit companies for Pinnacle and added that the sooner the project is moving, the better off the city and surrounding communities will be. Still, he said the city is not depending on the project as a means of developing the city.

"The administration is in constant contact (with the county) about this," he said. "There's not much contact about this from the council's end. We have so many

things right now. But I'm still confident the project will begin."

The state role in the Pinnacle situation does include finding a solution to the single business tax, if voters decide to do away with the provision in November. Crova said a reversal of that tax would be of assistance for both Pinnacle and Metro World.

"They're probably going to repeal that, and the Governor (Jennifer Granholm) has said she'd like to see something else in place because we've had so many cutbacks."

Scam - Victims are elderly

FROM PAGE 1

nothing about an investigation until it was announced James was arrested.

"There are obviously some legal issues that have occurred as a result of this, and there's not much I can say right now," he said. "This will have to go through the legal system."

Worthy said that Financial Freedom, which has agreements with several area brokers, cooperated fully in the investigation.

Reverse mortgages are home

equity loans that are increasingly popular with elderly people. It allows a borrower to tap into their home equity, and the loan doesn't have to be paid or until a borrower relocates or dies.

The case is one of the first big arrests for the Elder Abuse Unit, which was created by Worthy shortly after she took the helm of the prosecutor's office to address crimes against aging residents.

James was unreachable for comment for this story. He could face up to 24 years in prison if he is convicted of the charges.



Sweet success

The 2006 Belleville National Strawberry Festival last weekend saw more than 200,000 people enjoy the many different activities, foods and events. Alexandra Fernholz enjoyed the festivities and the food.

OPINION

A long, strange trip

As another argument for a part-time legislature in Lansing, let's take a look at a piece of legislation recently approved by the Michigan Senate.

Called the Truth in Music Act, it essentially prohibits musicians from touring under the name of classic rock 'n' roll bands if they don't feature at least one original member of the group.

So called reunion tours of classical rockers that hit the state fair and community festival tournament, taking advantage of popular music made at a time when television wasn't so prominent—which means the members of the original bands aren't easily recognizable—were the focus of the legislation, which has been enacted in other states.

Come on. Is this kind of thing really necessary? Is this the best use of their time? Here in Michigan, we are suffering under what most characterize as a single state recession. We've got serious issues to deal with regarding the tax structure as well as funding formulas for local municipalities and school districts.

We've got unemployment rates above the national average and our primary industry—the auto industry—is floundering, a situation that will most likely be exacerbated by the recent disclosure that the new plant Ford Motor Co. will construct in North America as part of the Way Forward Plan will be, in fact, south of our border.

But at least we won't have to listen to some pretender croon like one of the greats.

If this is the kind of thing they think of during the relatively few days they're actually required to be in the office, or on the floor of their respective houses, maybe it's time to rethink how much they are paid and the classification of their jobs, in general.

We, as citizens, might even want to campaign for such changes as a ballot initiative.

We just won't be able to do it while touring as The Turtles or The Grateful Dead.

Inspections will not help

How much government is too much? That's essentially the argument behind the proposed start of a regular rental inspection ordinance in the City of Westland.

Proponents of the plan said it will help the less fortunate residents in the city, those who for one reason or another live in relatively cheap rental units where sacrificing quality can also mean sacrificing safety. Those residents often don't have anywhere to turn if their landlord is unable or unwilling to clean up the places where they live.

Opponents of the plan say they're concerned about governmental intrusion in their lives; they might return to their homes one day and found it has been inspected while they were away. They're also concerned about escalating rent costs as representatives from some apartment complexes have stated they'll simply pass the costs along to the consumer.

So who's right? Both sides make salient points.

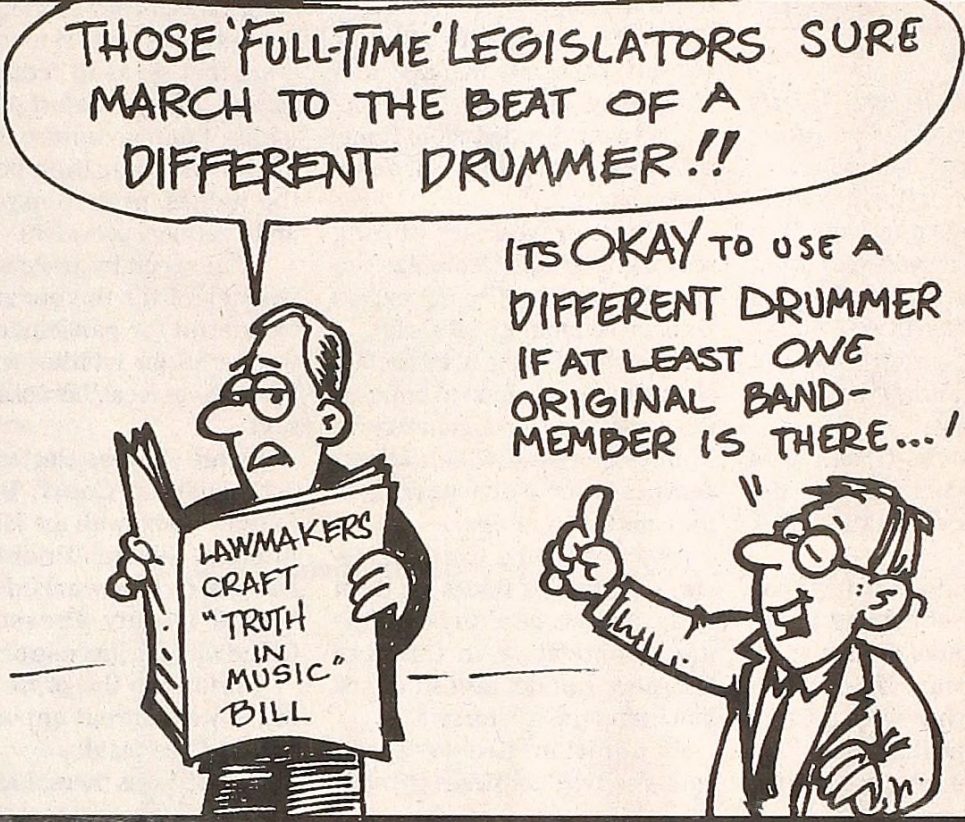
The rental inspection plan is a good one, though, that will ultimately bring more benefit than harm to renters in the city.

The ordinance is geared toward property owners who don't take care of their rental homes, whether they are apartments or homes. Why then, not come up with an ordinance that would seek them out specifically?

It would be difficult to enforce for one thing, and harder to defend, should one of those recalcitrant property owners file suit against the city.

The rental inspection ordinance will be a good thing, another tool the city can use to clean up unsightly units or unsafe dwellings, provid-

See **Inspection**, page 5



From the mouths of babes

"I can't believe my eyes!" shouted my son, Henry.

"There's a SOCK in the SANDBOX," the 5-year-old continued. "What's the world coming to?"

It was Saturday morning and we were at Attwood Park in Wayne. Sure enough, the boy held up a long, drooping tube sock as he approached me. A broken plastic cup and an empty juice box were cradled in his other arm. I took them all and added them to my own pile.

We had gone to the park—which Henry refers to as 'the wooden park' because of the huge playscape—early in the morning and I had been dismayed by the amount of litter strewn throughout the place. Empty plastic bottles, crushed disposable cups, ice cream wrappers and ant-covered Popsicle sticks were everywhere. I pushed Henry on the swing for a few minutes, but then my disgust boiled over.

"You know what, bud? We've got to pick this place up," I told him. "It's pretty disgusting."

He clambered down from the swing and pitched in cheerfully. I made three trips to the garbage can—which is only about 10 or 20 steps away, right outside the entrance and we soon had the park looking better.

"I can't believe someone would litter in the park like this," Henry said. "Parks deserve more respect!"

He's right on both points. I can't believe it either. If our children toss their refuse aside, isn't it our duty as parents to tell them not to? Or, barring that, at least bend over and pick it up ourselves?

It doesn't make sense to me. I don't want my

child playing in a trash-strewn park and I don't see why anyone else would, either.

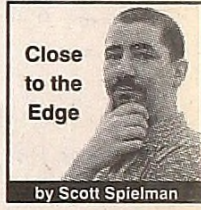
This may sound like a minor issue, a petty pet peeve, but it's not. The Wayne Parks and Recreation Department took a hit in the budget that will go into effect at the end of this month. They'll have fewer people to maintain park grounds, which means fewer people to go around picking up after the slobs who evidently played at Attwood Park on Friday night. It's not their fault and I'm sure they'll get to the parks when they can, but in the meantime, we can all help them out. There's no reason why any park should get to the point where a city employee has to come out and act like a maid.

These are our parks, after all. We can keep them clean. It's not rocket science and it's not exactly demanding labor.

Here's the best part about Saturday. Henry and I had the park to ourselves when we got there, but while we were picking things up three more people arrived: a grandmother and her two young grandchildren. Before I could stop the boy, he had rushed out and enlisted their help, too. So here's a 5-year-old running his own work crew, telling people older than he is that they should treat things with respect.

That means that nobody has to clean up after someone else; if you see someone drop a wrapper or an empty bottle, feel free to ask them to pick it up themselves. We need to take some responsibility and show some pride for our second-to-none park system.

If a 5-year-old can do it, can't we all?



Close to the Edge
by Scott Spielman

Stalemate is a sign of the times

I was stopped in the hallway by an Inkster city employee during the city council meeting Monday.

The employee, a long-time member of the city staff, indicated that I left an important detail out of a story I wrote about the impasse between the city and its largest union. Apparently, it's been a very long time since city employees got a significant raise; about three years or so.

This shouldn't come as a surprise. The city has been virtually broke for longer than that.

But in that time, natural gas, gasoline, utilities and other costs have gone through the roof. It's leaving many employees wondering about the conventional wisdom of staying with a municipality that, even in good times, paid less than others.

"Many of us grew up here, and we want to stay because we want this city to succeed," said another who joined the conversation. "But it's getting tough."

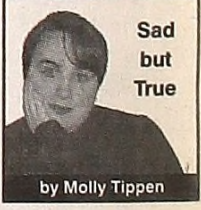
To be fair, the general shakiness of the statewide

economy has been brutal for municipalities. Estimates indicate that Inkster has lost about \$6 million in state shared revenue and other funds in the last five years. Residents, who already feel taxed out, also declined a tax increase that would have spared the city from cuts endured in the last fiscal year.

Efforts to improve the city tax base – some of which are successful – have not been able to stem the tide. One lawsuit – or a leaky roof – could wipe out the paltry fund balance.

But employees heard these excuses before, when times were better. So now, it's hard to accept these things as true – even if they really are.

One thing is for sure. Even though there are complaints about services – city employees providing residents with services that exceed what they



Sad but True
by Molly Tippen

See **Wages**, page 5

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Andrea King
Staff Writer

Students will see new textbooks next school year following approval of the purchase by members of the Van Buren Public School Board of Education last week.

Ray Gross, director of instruction, said the more than \$342,000 book purchase marks a new curriculum in all three levels: elementary, middle school and high school.

"It's something that's long overdue," he said. "This really is a modest number, too, but we're not denying the teachers of any materials and books they need. We brought forth everything."

Gross said that textbooks should be replaced about every five years, but the Van Buren Public School District typically replaces their books about every 10 years or so.

The purchase will include elementary math

books for \$138, 839, middle school math books for \$84,145 and high school English, social studies, history, psychology and geography books for \$119, 708. The elementary and middle school administrators requested textbooks for the new math curriculum. The high school officials needed new books for the recent change in curriculum that was approved last March.

Changes in the State of Michigan school mandates were also a factor, Gross said.

"Our job is to take content expectations and make sure they get taught," he said. "It's not that what the state is asking for is wrong, it's that they don't build the timeframe in to do it. Our job is to analyze books and curriculum, have it in place and make up the difference. We're trying to take care of every contingency we can think of."

Several middle school level books will be free of charge because of an exchange with the publishers distributing the material.

Wages

FROM PAGE 4

pay for. And they don't feel appreciated.

The city bears some of that responsibility. In bad times, if employees feel administrators are being fair about money and benefits, they are more likely to be understanding when things tank.

Currently, the city is still trying to negotiate with the municipal AFSCME workforce. And, after being offered no raise for three years, the two police

unions are preparing to go binding arbitration. The main issues, I've been told, are wages, and converting the pension system to the MERS (Michigan Employees Retirement System), which would give them more retirement options at the end of the road.

Half of the cost of hammering out a deal will cost the city, which is bound to pay half of all arbitration costs.

The message from employees is clear: I like working here, but I have bills and expenses and a family, too.

Inspections

FROM PAGE 4

ed it is used in the right way.

The city shouldn't use this as a way to penalize any one person or group of persons, nor to push the envelope of the constitution. They should use it as they've stated they would: as a way to promote safety. Let's face it: it can be difficult to complain to a landlord or property owner that holds so much of one's life in the balance.

Our concerns about it follow those of City Councilman Richard LeBlanc, who wondered if the city would be able to carry on such a program along with other efforts to clean up blight. In a city where rental units comprise about a third of all dwelling units, it could quickly become too large a task to take on.

That sounds like the foundation for a larger city work force: additional inspections require additional inspectors. We're not sure if that's the direction the city is headed, but we'd advise a little

caution there.

The city has shown great restraint in setting staffing levels and cutting costs. We don't think this is the time to reverse that trend, no matter how good the intended outcome.

Goodrich

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5:00, 6:30, 7:30, 9:00, 10:00 FRI/SAT LS 11:30

NACHO LIBRE (PG) 11:15, 1:15, 3:15, 5:15,
7:15, 9:15 FRI/SAT LS 11:15

GARFIELD: A TAIL OF TWO KITTIES (PG)
11:20, 1:20, 3:20, 5:20, 7:20

THE FAST AND THE FURIOUS: TOKYO DRIFT
(PG-13) 12:20, 2:35, 4:50, 7:05, 9:20
FRI/SAT LS 11:35

CARS (G)
11:15, 11:45, 1:45, 2:15, 4:15, 4:45, 7:15, 9:45

THE OMEN (R) 9:20 FRI/SAT LS 11:40

THE BREAK-UP (PG-13) 7:10, 9:25
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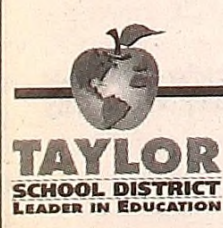
The Journal Newspapers welcomes all letters to the editor. Letters should be addressed to: The Editor, The Journal Newspapers, 35540 Michigan Ave., Wayne, Michigan 48184. All letters will be considered for publication and may be edited for content, space and length. Letters must be signed and a phone number included only for verification of the writer's identity. Addresses and phone numbers will be kept confidential.



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CITY OF ROMULUS

ADVERTISEMENT-REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

RPO Round VI Part A Grant for Footing Drain Disconnections Program

OHM Job No. 0155-04-0262

June 15, 2006

Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for RPO Round VI Part A Grant for Footing Drain Disconnections Program will be received at the City of Romulus Department of Public Works, 12600 Wayne Road, Romulus, MI 48174, until 2:00 pm local time, on June 30, 2006. The approximate quantities of major items of work involved are as follows:

Footing drain disconnections from the sanitary sewer for approximately 12 homes located in the northwest corner of the City of Romulus

The RFQ Document for this project may be obtained on and after 1:00 p.m., June 19, 2006, at the City of Romulus Department of Public Works, 12600 Wayne Road, Romulus, MI 48174.

The OWNER reserves the right to accept any RFQ, reject any RFQ, or waive irregularities in RFQ.

Publish: June 22, 2006

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN

PLANNING COMMISSION

CHANGE OF LOCATION

The Charter Township of Van Buren Planning Commission will hold meetings as described below on the South side of Van Buren Township to be held at **South Middle School; 45201 Owen Street, City of Belleville, County of Wayne, Michigan, 48111.**

The South Side Master Plan Amendment workshop meetings will take place on selected Wednesdays of each month at 7:30 p.m. during regularly scheduled Planning Commission Meetings.

South Side of Charter Township of Van Buren Master Plan Amendment workshop meetings are as follows:

March 8, 2006
May 24, 2006
August 23, 2006

March 22, 2006
June 28, 2006

April 26, 2006
July 26, 2006

Written comments will be accepted at the Department of Developmental Services until 5:00 p.m. on the day of the meeting.

In the spirit of compliance with the American Disabilities Act, individuals with a disability should feel free to contact the Department of Developmental Services, at least seventy two (72) hours in advance of the meeting, if requesting accommodations.

Posted: February 24, 2006

Publish: March 2, 2006
March 16, 2006
April 13, 2006
May 18, 2006
June 22, 2006
July 20, 2006
August 17, 2006

OBITUARIES

MCCLINTON, Sally

Sally Ann McClinton, 76, a life-long resident of the Belleville area, died May 30.

Among her survivors are her husband of 57 years, Robert McClinton; her children, Carol Lynn (Dave) Wilson of Belleville, Dennis (Ruth) McClinton of Newport, Kay (Larry) Camilleri of Romulus and Brian (Colette) McClinton of Belleville; a brother, Avery (Elizabeth) Hall; two sisters; 11 grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.

Mrs. McClinton was retired from the Belleville area school system.

Funeral services were at the David C. Brown Funeral Home with Pastor Mick Devons officiating.

Interment was at Knollwood Memorial Park in Canton Township.

BENROWSKY, Edmund

Edmund Benrowsky, 79, of Van Buren Township, died June 8.

Among his survivors are his wife, Joan Benrowsky, children, Butch (Debbie) Benrowsky, Danny Benrowsky, Theresa (Michael) Jones, Rose (Sam) Hanson, Irene Emond, Brenda (Jerry) Cassise, Sandy Taylor, Andy Benrowsky, Robin (Stan) Keane, James O'Dell, Joan O'Dell, Kimberly (Carl) Samuels and John O'Dell; 25 grandchildren; 26 great-grandchildren, and 20 great-great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were at Prince of Peach Lutheran Church in Westland with the Rev. Carl Ames officiating.

Cremation rites were accorded.

Arrangements were entrusted to the Uht Funeral Home in Westland.

COY, John

John W. Coy, 77, of Youngstown, AZ, formerly of Belleville, died June 7.

Among his survivors are his wife, Norma; sons, James and Jerry, both of Arizona, and two sisters, Elsa and Bernice, both of Belleville.

Mr. Coy was the founder of Wayne Mall Barbers in Wayne when Metro Place Mall opened.

He moved to Arizona in 1977 where he founded Thunderbird Barbers in Sun City.

Funeral arrangements were entrusted to Advantage Funeral and Cremation Services in Arizona.

MULLINS, Mollie

Mollie Ann Mullins, 65, of Romulus, died Jan. 29.

Among her survivors are her children, Earl F. (Alice) Mullins, Jr., Jeffrey Howard Mullins,

Ronald Scott Mullins and Michelle Ann Mullins; a brother Howard Woodard; a sister, Dorothy Kirchoff, and grandchildren, Lauren Nicole and Ryan

Jeffrey.

Funeral services were at the Uht Funeral Home in Westland with interment at Michigan Memorial Park.

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MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE ROMULUS CITY COUNCIL HELD JUNE 5, 2006 IN THE ROMULUS CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBER 11111 S. WAYNE ROAD, ROMULUS, MICHIGAN 48174.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Chairman Pro Tem William Wadsworth

Present: John Barden, Ellen Craig-Bragg, LeRoy Burcroff, Harry Crout, William Crova, William Wadsworth.

Excused: Mayor Pro Tem Randolph Gear.

Administrative Officials in Attendance:

Alan Lambert, Mayor

Linda R Choate, CMC, Clerk

Pamela Morrison/Kersey, CMFA Treasurer

1. Motion by Crova, supported by Barden to approve the agenda as presented.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes -Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crout, Crova, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.

Motion Carried Unanimously.

06-195

2. Motion by Burcroff supported by Bragg to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of the Romulus City Council held May 22, 2006.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crout, Crova, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.

Motion Carried Unanimously.

06-196

3A. Motion by Burcroff, supported by Crout to grant the Romulus Civic League a No-Fee Permit for a Flea Market - Bar-b-que on Saturday, July 15, 2006 between 8:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. located at 11495 Wahrman, Romulus, Michigan 48174.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crout, Crova, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.

Motion Carried Unanimously.

06-197

3B. Motion by Crova, supported by Bragg, pursuant to Chapter 33 Section 26, Subdivision Control Ordinance, all conditions having been satisfied to grant final plat approval to Elro Corporation for Legacy Park Subdivision PC-2005-030 located on Tyler Road west of Cogswell in the City of Romulus, Michigan.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crout, Crova, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.

Motion Carried Unanimously.

06-198

4A. Motion by Crova, supported by Bragg to adopt a memorial resolution to the family of Robert J. "R.J." Thomas.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crout, Crova, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.

Motion Carried Unanimously.

4. Motion by Barden, supported by Bragg to accept the Chairperson's Report.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes -Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crout, Crova, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.

Motion Carried Unanimously.

06-199

5A. Motion by Crova, supported by Crout to concur with the Administration and authorize payment of SEMCOG Membership Dues in the amount of \$3,140.00, from June 15, 2006 through June 15, 2007.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes -Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crout, Crova, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.

Motion Carried Unanimously.

06-200

5B. Motion by Barden, supported by Crout to concur with the recommendation of Debra Hoffman, Finance Director, and authorize a \$35.00 tax roll processing fee to cover administrative costs to place delinquent accounts receivables as well as delin-

quent water/sewer bills on the tax rolls.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crout, Crova, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.

Motion Carried Unanimously.

06-201

5C. Motion by Bragg, supported by Crova to concur with Richard Suiter, Assistant DPW Director, and grant authorization for the City of Romulus to participate in the EAB 05-103 Tree Planting Grant Program.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crout, Crova, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.

Motion Carried Unanimously.

06-202

5D. Motion by Crova, supported by Crout to concur with Lynn Conway, Purchasing Coordinator and Patrick Hogan, Acting DPW Director to extend Bid Award 03/04/02 Dust Control for unpaved and gravel roads to Suburban Oil until June 30, 2008.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crout, Crova, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.

Motion Carried Unanimously.

06-203

5E. Motion by Burcroff, supported by Crout to concur with Lynn Conway, Purchasing Director and Charles Kirby, Public Safety Director to extend Bid Award 04/05-12 for K-9 training for a new K-9 and a new K-9 handler in the amount of \$3,200.00 to K-9 Academy.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crout, Crova, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.

Motion Carried Unanimously.

06-204

5F. Motion by Barden, supported by Crout to concur with Lynn Conway, Purchasing Coordinator and Charles Kirby, Public Safety Director to extend Bid Award 05/06-29 Police Cruisers and Bid 05/06-28 P.D. marked Police Vehicle Changeovers to Signature Ford and Priority One for the purchase and change over of Five (5) marked police vehicles.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crout, Crova, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.

Motion Carried Unanimously.

06-205

6A1. Motion by Burcroff, supported by Crova to concur with Assistant D.P.W. Director, Richard Suiter and introduce an Ordinance to amend Chapter 37, Section 2 (amended sections would be Section 2 with a new subsection (a)(e)(f) and (g) of the Water and Sewer Ordinance providing for updates in the state law and for testing of backflow prevention assemblies as required by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ).

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crout, Crova, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.

Motion Carried Unanimously.

11. Motion by Crova, supported by Barden to adjourn the regular meeting of the Romulus City Council.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crout, Crova, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda R. Choate, CMC, Clerk
City of Romulus, Michigan

I, Linda R. Choate, Clerk for the City of Romulus, Michigan do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true copy of the minutes of the regular meeting of the Romulus City Council held June 5, 2006.

Linda R. Choate, Clerk
City of Romulus, Michigan

Publish: June 22, 2006

THE SCENE

Nacho Libre

Film is not basic Jack Black

Jack Black is usually a sure bet. Regardless of how moronic or raunchy his characters tend to be, he usually pulls off a few good laughs as long as he has a decent script.

Team him up with director Jared Hess, who exploded on the scene with the low budget cult hit *Napoleon Dynamite*, and Mike White, the writer who penned the somewhat endearing and funny *School of Rock* starring Black, you'd think *Nacho Libre* would be a sure hit (Hess' wife Jerusha Hess also received a writing credit).

However, something goes terribly wrong with the ridiculous south of the border wrestling comedy—if comedy is what you want to call it.

With flatulence jokes, the occasional

kick between the legs, the intermittent gross-out scenes and the PG

rating, *Nacho Libre* feels like it was created by a 12-year-old for a bunch of 10-year-olds. If you look at one of the production companies—Nickelodeon Movies—that may make perfect sense, but it doesn't make the film worth watching—especially if you're looking for something all long the lines of classic Black.

Where did the film go wrong?

First, the dialogue is too Napoleon-esque—thick and lagging. Although Napoleon had his moments, Nacho's discourse takes too long to catch up to the joke or make a point.

Second, Black's bizarre Mexican accent, although amusing at first, wears thin less than halfway through the 91 minute run time. At times it was hard to pick up exactly what he was saying resulting in—what I'm pretty sure were—a lot of missed jokes.

Third, the adolescent comedy just didn't get it done, leaving the meandering plotline stalled in the Mexican wilderness.

The story revolves around Ignacio, a.k.a. Nacho (Black), a half-Mexican, half-Scandinavian orphan who grows up in a Mexican monastery and later becomes the cook

at the orphanage. He obviously doesn't fit in, but he cares deeply for the orphans and the stunning new nun, Sister Encarnacion (Ana de la Reguera). The conditions at the orphanage, especially the food, are terrible.

The only way Nacho can improve things is by shedding his monk robes and sandals for a baby-blue mask and fiery red cape to become a Lucha Libre—a famous mask-wearing wrestler. The church forbids wrestling, which forces Nacho to live a double life. He teams up with street vagabond Esqueleto, played by the ultra thin Hector Jimenez, in the ring.

Even though they lose they still get paid for their efforts. That means more money to improve the orphans' diet. Nacho hopes his efforts will earn the love of Encarnacion. The love angle is a bit weird, if not outright sacrilegious.

The wrestling matches contain some of the more comedic moments.

On the flip side Nacho spends just as much time, if not more, in the bathroom stall battling the effects that beans have on the human digestive system than he does actual opponents in the ring.

The final down point of the movie is: you will see more of Black's naked upper torso than you'll ever want to see in a lifetime.

Nacho Libre does have a few moments. Nacho's and Esqueleto's training sessions involve bombarding each other with blunt objects, including grapefruits and bee hives, to toughen

up.

The date scene where Nacho dons his 'recreational' clothes is butt clenching—for Black not so much the audience. I think.

Despite its attempts, I would have to say avoid *Nacho Libre* like a bowl of rotten refried beans (or its after effects) unless you're a 10-year-old boy with nothing better to do.

Too bad President Bush's proposal to have more National Guard patrolling the borders hasn't been approved in order to keep *Nacho Libre* out of U.S. theaters.

So if you're looking for something in classic Black, stick with tuxedos, dresses and Rolls Royce—they're worth the money spent.

Lake House drowns in poor plotting, mysterious mailbox

Meghan Chatham
Staff Writer

Love that must overcome unbelievable odds—not to mention defy the rules of science—isn't a new idea for Hollywood. Classics such as *Somewhere in Time*, *The Ghost and Mrs. Muir*, and the *Back to the Future* series prove it can be done.

As viewers of *The Lake House* can attest, however, that doesn't always mean that it's done well.

The *Lake House*, which opened Friday, is a story of possibilities, fate, and the power of love. Kate Forster (Sandra Bullock) spends many happy months living in the title lake house before finally moving out to be closer to her job as a doctor

at a busy Chicago hospital. Before she leaves, Kate sets a note with her new address in the mailbox with a request that the next tenant forward any mail that might get delivered.

Architect and developer Alex Wyler (Keanu Reeves) pulls into the home a little while later and finds the message in the mailbox—and becomes confused because he knows that the home had been vacant for years before he moved in. He sets a message in the mailbox politely asking if she's sure she has the right house and tries to put the matter out of his mind.

Eventually, the truth comes out. The duo lived in the home two years apart and somehow the mailbox acts as a portal that

allowed Kate, circa 2006, to send messages to Alex, circa 2004, and vice versa. With the help of the mailbox, the couple begins the ultimate long distance relationship as they try to find their soul mates in each other.

A lot can happen in two years, though, and whether or not the pair will ever truly be able to meet overshadows everything.

It's really difficult to care what happens to them. Only minutes into the film, the pivotal point of the entire film crosses the screen—which means that there is more than an hour of build-up before anything notable occurs. Instead, audience members are essentially voyeurs in the written courtship while flashbacks and flash-for-

wards happen so often that telling one subplot from another can be a source of significant aggravation.

With so much free time, it's hard not to let your mind wander: Why is the 'magic mailbox' acting this way? Is it caused by fate, divine intervention, or some other unknown source? If Kate has such an overwhelming work schedule, why does she have the time to spend so much time hovering over the mailbox of a seemingly abandoned home? Why are their respective friends not more concerned that Kate and Alex believe they are involved in a relationship with someone from the past/future? Does this pass for normal in their circle of friends? Do the

neighbors not notice them staring intently at the mailbox for hours on end or do they simply not care?

The list could continue endlessly, but the end result is that by the end of the cliché-ridden and predictable film, it's really hard to care what is going to happen or why. Bullock does a great job with her role while Reeves is, well, Reeves, but this film doesn't offer them much to work with.

If you need a proven cure for insomnia, this could be the film you've been looking for. Otherwise, go to the video store instead. No matter what you're looking for, there has to be something better than this.

The film is rated PG.

Art in the Park organizers ready for show

Scott Spielman
Editor

With a little more than two weeks before the annual Art in the Park returns to downtown Plymouth, the event is really taking shape.

The volunteers and organizers met with city officials Monday night in their last tune up for the art show that brings more than 400 artists—and thousands of visitors—to Kellogg Park for the three day event.

“Everything is crazy right now,” said Raychel Rork, daughter of Dianne Quinn, who founded the event more than 25 years

ago. The mother-daughter team organizes the event every year.

Art in the Park returns to Kellogg Park from July 7-9. The streets will be closed as artists set up booths throughout the downtown. The show will be open from noon to 8 p.m. on Friday, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Saturday and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday.

More than 400 artists are scheduled to arrive, including nine from Plymouth, alone.

“I think that’s the most Plymouth artists we’ve ever had,” Rork said.

There will be nearly 70 new artists this year, hailing from throughout the U.S. and beyond.

Popular features such as the children’s art area, near the fountain, will return, as will the kids’ mural. Set up in the park, the mural allows children a chance to paint in a square of the gigantic artwork, which will be donated to back to the community.

“The YMCA will be the recipient this year,” Rork said.

There will be plenty of other activities for youngsters, too, including the ScrapMobile, which allows them to create art with discarded items.

One big change to the event this year is the addition of the ‘Party Pavillion’ behind E.G. Nick’s on Forest Avenue. The

tent will feature alcoholic beverages and entertainment throughout the festival hours and into the evening.

“We’re excited about it,” Quinn said. “I think it will help the community. I think more people will stay downtown.”

The chamber of commerce will take a more active role this year, too, handing out coupons good at downtown stores and other goodies.

Entertainment throughout the weekend ranges from local country music celebrity Sarah Lenore to Watson, the barefoot violinist to George Tait, a psychological illusionist, John Park, a comedi-

an and juggler and more. “There’s something for everyone,” Quinn said.

Despite jokes about the frenzied nature of the last few weeks before the event, which is the second largest art show in the State of Michigan, Quinn and Rork have streamlined the process of putting on the festival every year to a science. They’ve been asked to start up other shows in other communities and last year lectured at the Michigan Entertainment and Events Conference.

“Our topic was ‘Organized Chaos,’” Quinn said. “It was cute.”

Belleville Music in the Park Series begins this weekend

The annual Music in the Park concert series will start Sunday afternoon at Victory Park in downtown Belleville, located at the “Five Points” area of the city. Performances will start at 3 p.m. every Sunday until August.

Performers include: the Belleville Community Band, the Lori Lefevre Troupe, the Southeast Michigan French Horn Choir, the Music Lady, Joyous Noise and Fiddlers ReStrung.

Phil Miller, president of the Belleville Area Council for the Arts, said the concert series is free entertainment for the whole family.

“We’ve been doing this program for about 15 years. It’s something

we wanted to continue in the community and would love to make more popular,” he said.

The Belleville Community Band will start the series on Sunday, June 25 with their first of three performances. They will continue to play throughout the summer with their last performance on Aug. 20. The band is made up of area people ranging from youth to adults that everybody enjoys hearing, according to Claudia Roullier, chairperson of the music committee.

The group will then continue their performances with Director Tim Miller on Aug. 6 and a finale concert and ice cream social on

Aug. 20.

New this year, the Lori Lefevre Troupe will follow the Belleville Community Band on July 9. They will create music from the 1940s using a mix of jazz, guitar, drums and keyboard.

The Southeast Michigan French Horn Choir will follow on July 16, which will feature players directed by Carl Karoub.

“He comes from some really fantastic symphonies so when he directs, he speaks about the various parts of the instrument,” said Roullier. “He’s very animated, it’s very entertaining and everyone loved it so much last year that there are looking forward to it this

year.”

The Music Lady, former Belleville resident Beverly Meyer, will perform on July 23. Meyer will be back again to educate children through music, along with Jack the Balloon Man.

Joyous Noise will follow on July 30.

“This will be their second year, but no one really got to hear them last year because they were rained out,” said Roullier. “But, they play classic toe tapping music with dulcimers, guitars, bass and fiddles.”

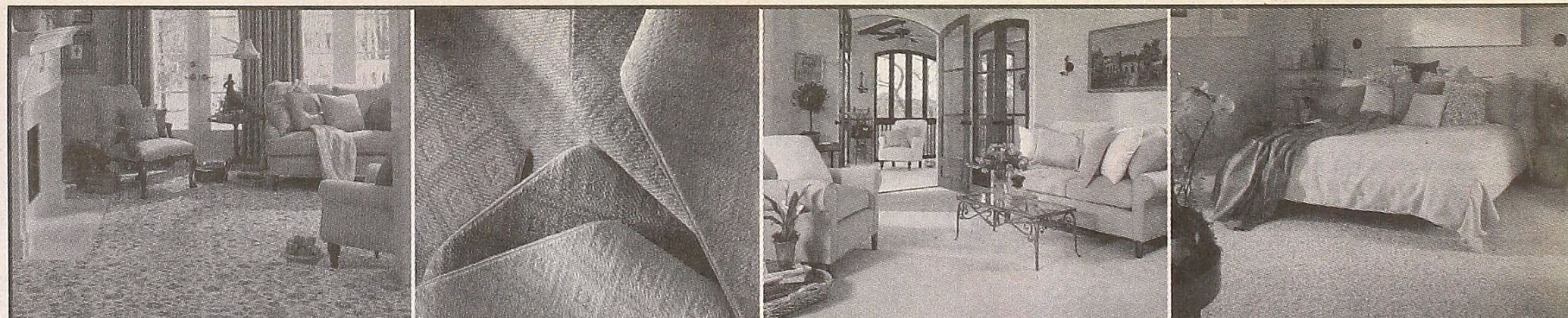
Fiddlers ReStrung will perform on Aug. 13. The string group from Saline will feature a delightful sound joyous to the ear, said

Roullier.

“It’s a nice mix of all types of music. Something for everyone,” Roullier said.

“We usually have a good showing, too,” added Miller. “About 75-100 people per show, sometimes about 150 people. We’d like to have more fun with it in the future.”

In case of rain, concerts will be at the First United Methodist Church fellowship hall on Charles Street in Belleville. For more information about the concert series, to volunteer or other information on other art programs, contact the Belleville Area Council For the Arts at (734) 697-8123 or Miller at (313) 689-9720.



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City-wide sale planned in Wayne

Scott Spielman
Editor

The parking garage in the City of Wayne will be packed on Saturday.

The structure at Wayne Road and Michigan Avenue will host a city-wide garage sale from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on June 24, according to Gayle Rediske, executive director of the Wayne Chamber of Commerce.

She said it will feature more than three floors of assorted knickknacks, from the new to the old.

"We have more than 120 spaces sold," she said. "It's going to be a pretty nice event."

The garage sale is a joint effort between the chamber and the city.

Vendors from as far away as Bay City and Ohio will arrive as early as 5 a.m. to set up for the day-long affair. Items include everything from hand-made jewelry and crafts to collectibles, antiques and more.

"There's a lot of variety in the merchandise," Rediske said. "There's quite a bit for kids, too."

In addition to the items for sale, a group will be offering chair massages, and another will be on hand to talk about the plight of racing greyhounds. Members of the Historic Wayne

There's a lot of variety in the merchandise. There's quite a bit for kids, too.

Gayle Rediske

Theater board will be on hand selling pieces of history—chairs from the theater on Michigan Avenue, which originally came from the old Quo Vadis Theater in Westland.

"We'll also have information about our efforts to restore the theater," said Don Nicholson, capital fundraising chairman for the theater group. They've revved up their attempts to bring the theater, which is about 70 years old, back to operation.

Most of the garage will be taken up with vendors—beginning on the top floor and working their way down—but Rediske said there should be plenty of parking in the lower levels of the deck or at the nearby Dorsey Business School.

The event will take place rain or shine and is free and open to the public.

"I hope we'll have a good turnout," Rediske said. "I'd like to see a lot of people there."



Smokin'

Westland Police Chief Dan Pfannes accepted donation of \$16,000 from representatives of the Firing Line indoor gun range and gun shop on June 5 to be used for the city tactical response team. The funds were the proceeds of the fourth annual cigar party at The Firing Line, which took place March 18.

3-year-old critically injured by car

A 3-year-old Canton Township boy was in fair condition Tuesday after he was hit by a car in Westland Thursday night.

According to Westland police, the child had been pedaling a four-wheeled bicycle around the driveway of the home of a family friend in Westland under adult supervision when, at about 10 p.m., he suddenly pointed the bicycle down the driveway and into oncoming traffic on Joy Road. He was struck by a vehicle headed eastbound down Joy in the curb lane. The incident took place on Joy Road at

Oxbow Street, which is located east of Middlebelt Road.

The victim was taken by ambulance to Garden City Hospital and then airlifted to the University of Michigan Hospital in Ann Arbor. His condition was upgraded to fair by Tuesday afternoon.

According to Sgt. Rob Collier of the Westland Police Department, the Westland woman driving the vehicle didn't have time to react after the child suddenly appeared from the darkness.

"There's nothing the driver could have done," he said. "It's one of those things that happen."

The investigation is closed, according to Westland Police Chief Daniel Pfannes, no charges will be filed against the driver. Neither drugs nor alcohol were a factor in the crash.

Two other vehicles collided head-on when they swerved to avoid the original accident. Neither driver reported any injuries, but one of the vehicles was severely damaged.

Collier said that although this accident probably couldn't have been avoided, it would hopefully remind people to remain vigilant when they are driving—no matter where or when.

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SPORTS

Wildcats, heat too much for Lady Mustangs in finale

Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

Almost everyone got what they wanted on Saturday when the two top soccer teams in the state faced off for the Division 1 state championship title at Troy High School.

Coaches and players took part in the biggest game of the year. Parents and fans saw an exciting game. Anyone looking for desert-like heat conditions...well, they fared pretty well, too.

Novi and Northville were clearly the two best teams in Michigan—not to mention archrivals—but when the temperature on the field pushes 110 degrees anything can happen.

The Lady Mustangs, dressed all black, felt the impact of the heat more than the white-clad Wildcats. Plainly put: the 'Stangs were not their usual selves. They were sluggish and it showed.

Novi capitalized on two early mistakes to win its second consecutive state crown, 3-1.

"I think, more than anything else, heat was a factor in the game," said Northville Coach Ron Meteyer. "When you have to wear black jerseys on a day when it's 93 degrees and sunny, that doesn't work. That drained our kids. I've never seen them so quickly drained of energy as they were today."

"We made two mistakes in the first half and they scored on both of them, but when you lose that much water weight and that much electrolyte it has to affect

your way of thinking," he added. "We were slower to the movement; we were slower to respond to things."

Novi's junior forward Stephanie Crawford scored all three of the Wildcats' tallies.

At the 31:26 mark of the first half, Crawford let one fly. The shot ricocheted off the cross bar, bounced off the back of Northville's goalie, Liz Watza, and rolled into the far corner.

Just 31 seconds earlier, Watza, a junior, made a spectacular save off of a free kick.

Later Crawford showed off more of her athletic ability when she spun 180 degrees to blast the ball out of mid-air past Watza to give Novi a 2-0 advantage.

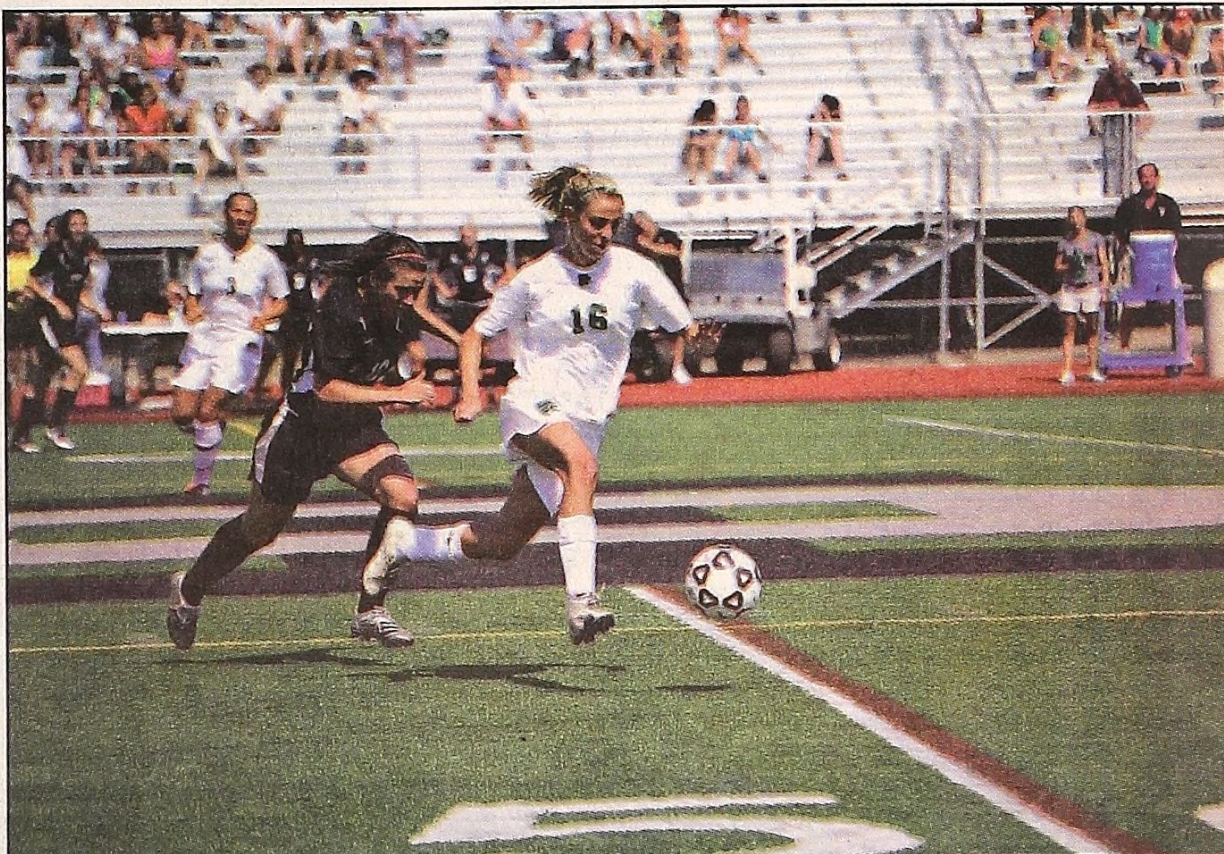
After intermission, Meteyer replaced Watza with senior Katie Weicksel.

"We were hoping to get more communication from the back," Meteyer said. The change in net and the break appeared to lift the team some as the Lady 'Stangs supplied some much needed pressure on Novi's net. At the 36:15 mark, Northville senior midfielder Lindsey Blair blasted one off the crossbar.

However, two minutes later, Novi responded when Crawford headed the ball past Weicksel to complete her hat trick at 33:58 of the half.

Blair had a second chance to score and took full advantage when she headed the ball past Novi's freshman goalie Erin Zerio at 28:16. The shot came off of a free kick by senior defender Simone Toney.

Meteyer had to make his sec-



Northville's offense had a tough time against Novi's defense and the heat in the state championship final on Saturday. Above, Northville's senior forward Lauren Hill pursues the ball against senior Novi defender Lauren Marchioni (16). Northville lost the contest, 3-1.

ond change in net when Weicksel went down with an injury. That put freshman Julie Blaszcak in the goal.

With about 14 minutes left, Toney launched another free kick that looked destined for the top corner of Novi's net but Zerio made a leaping stop to keep the game at 3-1.

If Crawford didn't get the team's MVP award it should have gone to Novi's stifling defensive unit that kept Northville's offense in check. Both of Northville's top forwards, senior Lauren Hill and junior Danielle Toney, remained quiet all day due to Novi's defensive play—a main objective of Novi Coach Brian O'Leary.

"Northville's forwards are

See **Soccer**, page 11



Northville senior midfielder Lindsey Blair fends off Portage Central freshman midfielder Shannon Bennett in the Mustang's 3-0 state semifinal victory last week. The win placed them in the state championship game against Novi on Saturday.

How they got there

The Northville Mustang soccer team had all of their guns blazing last Wednesday night as they moved past Portage Central, 2-0, in a Division 1 regional semifinal at Hartland High School.

Northville's two top guns—Danielle Toney and Lauren Hill—supplied the firepower for the 'Stangs.

The Mustangs dominated the midfield, but both teams had quality scoring chances in the first half.

It wasn't until the 4:36 mark of the half that Toney, a junior forward, spun around a defender and let loose a low spinner that found its way past Central junior keeper Meaghan Bennett. That put Northville up, 1-0, and spurred the horses on. Hill assisted on the play.

Toney had another opportunity less than a minute later (3:46), but Bennett broke up the play before it caused more damage.

Northville played ball control in the second half, waiting

for a defensive breakdown on Central's part.

And they got it.

At the 21:21 mark Hill, a senior forward, took advantage of a loose ball in front of the net and one-timed it behind Bennett.

Northville's defense was solid throughout the game, giving up minimal shots on net. Junior keeper Liz Watza gobbled up whatever made it past the defense for the shutout.

The big difference between this game and the 4-0 regional championship victory against Saline last week was the girls' midfield play, according to Northville Coach Ron Meteyer.

"Where I think we made a big difference was our midfield bringing the ball down and playing with control from there," he said. "And then you have two forwards that can wreak havoc up there by switching off and turning around. I don't think their defense has ever seen anything like those kids up on forward."



The Lady Mustangs unite during the National Anthem prior to the kickoff of the state championship game in Troy on Saturday.

SPORTS

Soccer

FROM PAGE 10

fantastic, just unbelievable forwards and our plan was to double-team them both every time they got the ball," he said. "Probably the biggest key to the game, even though Stephanie Crawford scored three goals in the game and that's huge in a state final, but I think the biggest thing was how my defense played as a unit.

"Every time Hill or (Danielle) Toney got the ball they doubled them. We always had depth and we always had someone on the other players—every single time. Not one time did we make a mistake defensively. To me that is the story of the game."

Meteyer said it wasn't the offensive game that he expected from his squad.

"We weren't playing the outside game as well as we should have," he said. "The other thing was—and we saw this during the regular season—when you push the ball up one side, Novi tends to slant all their defense to that side. There's nobody on the back-door on the far side. That's when you have to cross the ball. We talked about and talked about

the need to cross the ball. How many did we get off? None."

He said he never worried, even when the team was down 2-0. The situation wasn't a new one for the Mustangs. They trailed Walled Lake Northern, 2-0, in the regular season but came back to win. Stevenson had them at 2-0, but Northville came back to win, 4-3, in the district championship game.

"We weren't uncomfortable with the fact that we were down," he said. "It's uncomfortable when you have a team that plays such good defense as they do and uncomfortable when playing in this kind of heat."

This was the second time in three years Northville made it to the state finals.

They won the crown in 2004. Novi won it last year after they knocked Northville out of the district tournament. It was the match-up everyone wanted this year, including the coaches and players.

"Northville is our biggest rival," O'Leary said. "The girls always get up for the Northville game. Everyone on my team knows everyone on their team—that makes it special. The good thing about my girls is that they always play their best against teams like Northville."

Northville's forwards are fantastic, just unbelievable forwards and our plan was to double-team them both every time they got the ball.



Novi senior midfielder Kelli Walker takes the ball into Northville's zone past freshman mid Camille Junca.



Northville's junior defender Kristen Slack takes a water break—one of just a few that the officials stopped play for. Temperatures reached beyond the 100-degree mark on the field.



Northville Coach Ron Meteyer shows off the state runner-up trophy after 80 minutes of heated play on Saturday.

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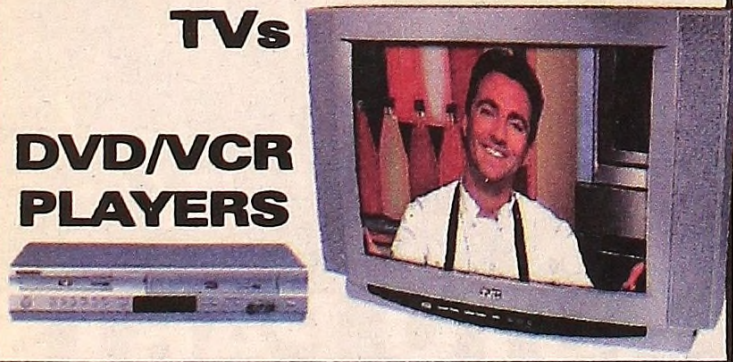
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SPORTS

Plymouth Wildcats head to Big Day Prep Showdown

Matt Whalen
Staff Writer

The Plymouth Wildcats will showcase their talent in the second annual high school football Big Day Prep Showdown presented by the Detroit Metro Sports Commission.

The event will take place on Saturday Aug. 26 at Eastern Michigan's Rynearson Stadium. Plymouth was one of eight teams invited to participate in this season-opening high school football event. The Wildcats will play Hudsonville, both schools being first time participants in this event, at 2:30 p.m. Hudsonville lost 14-7 to Brother Rice in the state championships last year.

"Our players and coaches are excited about the opportunity to play Hudsonville," said Jay Blaylock, Plymouth football coach. "They have a lot of tradition in their program and we need to win games like this to get to the next level."

The Wildcats have solid offensive line-man and skill players on offense and players that will hit on defense that will help them reach the next level, according to Blaylock.

Other matchups in the showdown include Allen Park vs. Trenton and Chelsea vs. Novi. Both are rematches from the showdown last year. Saline is also returning and will play another first time participant, Flint Carman-Ainsworth. In addition to the competitive high school football, fans can enjoy a fan zone with interactive games, face painting, and appearances by

They have a lot of tradition in their program and we need to win games like this to get to the next level.

Coach Jay Blaylock

local sports mascots.

The Detroit Metro Sports Commission is looking forward to another successful Big Day Showdown this year. The goal is to draw about 14-15,000 fans, according to Dave Beachnau of the Detroit Metro Sports Commission.

"We are excited to have Hudsonville participate this year because they traditionally have a strong team whose fans travel well," Beachnau said. "This event will only grow with popularity and hopefully it will draw the general high school in addition to fans from the participating schools."

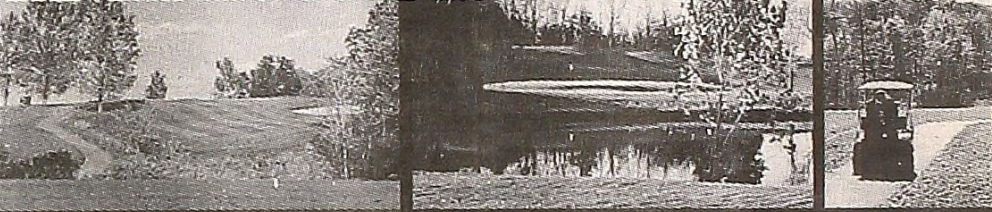
Coming off of their first playoff appearance last year, Plymouth is looking forward to participating in the showdown and attempting to establish a playoff tradition.

"It's an honor to participate in this event," said Terry Sawchuk, athletic director at Plymouth High School. "Last year's seniors established a solid program and showed that high expectations along with a great work ethic can accomplish something special."



The Plymouth Wildcat football team was chosen to take part in the Big Day Prep Showdown in August. The event marks the official kick off of high school football. File photo

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SPORTS

Whalers' busy off season bodes well for future

Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

One would think that after battling through an arduous regular season, winning the West Division and surviving seven games in the first round of playoffs just to have to fight and scrape to stay alive in the second round, summer would be a time for relaxation for the Plymouth Whalers.

Not so. President, general manager and head coach Mike Vellucci has n't had the chance to break out the Bermuda shorts and hammock yet. He's been too busy drafting and signing players in an effort to make another run at the division championship (or beyond) next year.

The 2006-07 season could be the biggest for the Whalers in several years with the talent they have coming in and the old talent returning.

The Whalers will lose captain and left-winger John Vigilante (still the coolest name in hockey), defender Mike Litezia, right-winger Gino Pisellini and goalie Justin Peters as overage players.

But they'll have solid firepower returning with right-winger Dan Collins and left-winger James Neal—named Plymouth's most valuable playoff player.

Collins and Neal are just two of 12 players coming back; so are John Armstrong, Andrew Fournier and Tom Sestito. All three will be selected in this weekend's National Hockey League (NHL) Entry Draft. Justin Garay should start in goal.

Vellucci also went with offense in the 2006 Ontario Hockey League (OHL) draft last month. With the team's first selection (13th overall) he picked Vern Cooper out of Sudbury. Cooper scored 45 goals with 47 assists in 41 games last season with the Sudbury Nickel Capitals.

"Vern is probably the most dynamic player in the draft," Vellucci said. "I don't think there's anyone in the draft as fast as he is. His offensive skills are tremendous. We had him rated number one overall. We just talked to him and he's excited to come here. I have a pretty good relationship with his agency and they've assured me he is coming

to Plymouth."

Last week Vellucci signed seventh rounder A.J. Jenks. Jenks was a surprise since he was set to play for the University of Michigan and the American Hockey League (AHL). He switched gears and signed with the Whalers the middle of last week, according to Vellucci.

"He's one of the top-rated kids in his age group," Vellucci said. "He's a big kid



A.J. Jenks will make an immediate impact when he joins the Plymouth Whalers this season. Photo by Walt Dmoch

with a lot of skill. He shoots the puck extremely hard."

The International Scouting Service ranked Jenks second among players with 1990 birthdays eligible for the May draft. He scored 26 goals with 29 assists for 55 points and 97 penalty minutes in 66 games with the Detroit Honeybaked Midgets.

Jenks' signing came a few days after the team signed 2005 draftee Frank Grzeszczak, a defenseman with the Sioux City of the United States Hockey League (USHL).

The Whalers signed three other 2005 draft choices early in May with center Chad Beal, goaltender Kyle Jendra and right wing Kaine Geldart.

Vellucci likes the old and new talent

coming in.

"We have a lot of returning players," he said. "We're only losing the four guys and we have a lot of new guys with a lot of talent coming in so that's exciting."

"The team played really well down the stretch last year and won the division," he added. "With the new prospects this year we should be able to at least win the division again this year."

Plymouth starts training camp on Aug. 30 and begins preseason competition against Windsor at 2 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 2.

The Whalers open the season at Sarnia at 7:35 pm on Friday, Sept. 22. The home opener is scheduled for 7:05 pm on Saturday, Sept. 23.

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FAMILY FEATURES

This summer, fireworks won't be the only dazzlers on the Fourth of July — or at your summer backyard barbecue. When you gather friends and family, serve up the best of the season with flavors that sparkle, sizzle and satisfy.

First, make it easy. Pour your guests a restaurant-quality, ready-to-serve Jose Cuervo Golden Margarita. Blended with the rich orange flavor of Grand Marnier, this golden margarita is great served frozen or on the rocks — whichever you prefer. You also can use golden margarita in vinaigrettes for salads or in bastes and glazes for grilled food, or you can drizzle it over desserts. Or pull out the blender to make a signature Northwest Cherry Bomb Margarita with sweet cherries and a squeeze of fresh lime juice.

Next, stir together a Firecracker Salsa or a crisp salad made with fresh sweet cherries from the Pacific Northwest. Cherries remain one of the last truly seasonal fruits. Their short but oh-so-sweet season begins in early June and runs through mid-August. Add them to your favorite recipes or simply eat these two-bite-size beauties out of hand. Sweet cherries contain antioxidants and are rich in vitamin C. They're a good source of fiber, yet fat- and cholesterol-free, with a Glycemic Index of only 22.

Then, fire up the grill. What better entrée to sizzle on the grill than fresh, wild-caught Alaska salmon from sustainable fisheries. Alaska salmon have firm flesh and great taste from cold, clean waters. Choose from among five different species: King, Coho, Keta, Sockeye or Pink. To heighten salmon's superb flavor even more, brush on a grilling glaze flavored with golden margarita and chipotle. Then celebrate that something that tastes this great can be so good for you. Salmon, as you know, is high in omega-3 fatty acids that contribute to heart health.

For more information and recipes, visit www.nwcherries.com, www.alaskaseafood.org and www.cuervo.com.

*Chipotle-Glazed
Alaska Salmon With
Northwest Cherry
Firecracker Salsa*

Grilled Alaska Salmon With Herbed Orzo and Margarita Salad

- 4 Alaska Salmon steaks or fillets (4 to 6 ounces each), seasoned to taste and grilled
- 2 cups (6 ounces) fresh sugar snap peas, cooked to crisp-tender
- 1/4 pound fresh asparagus, cut diagonally, cooked to crisp-tender
- 1 cup pitted fresh sweet Northwest Cherries
- Mixed salad greens

Orzo

- 12 ounces orzo pasta, cooked according to package directions
- 2 to 3 tablespoons fresh chopped basil, parsley or other fresh herb
- Kosher salt, to taste
- Crushed red pepper flakes, to taste

Vinaigrette

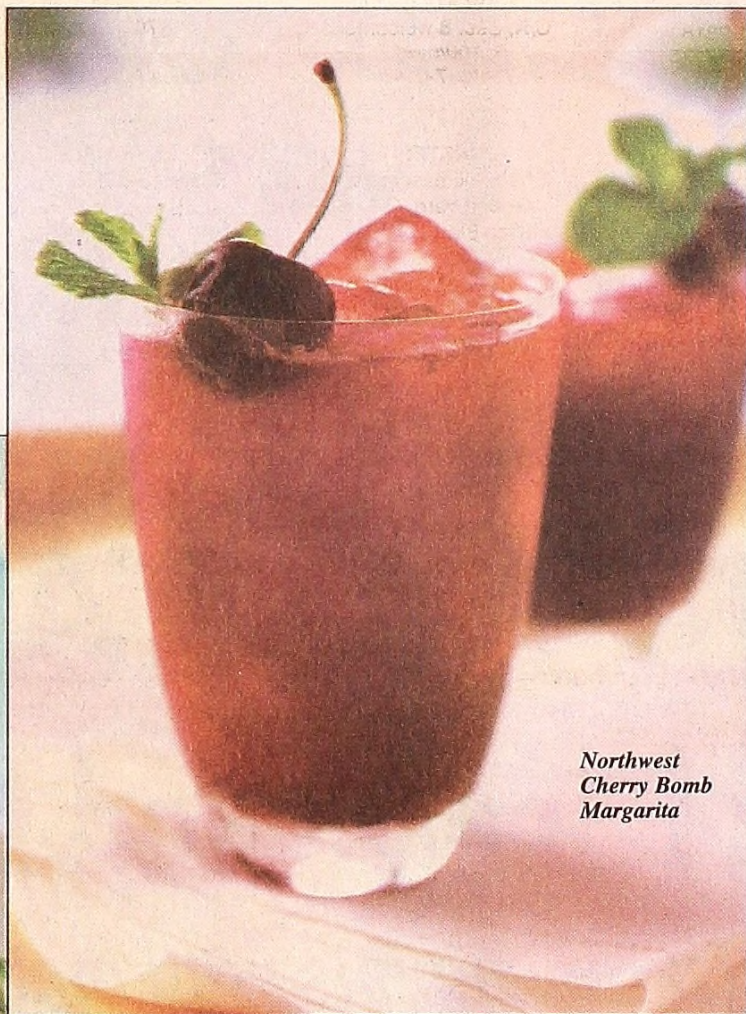
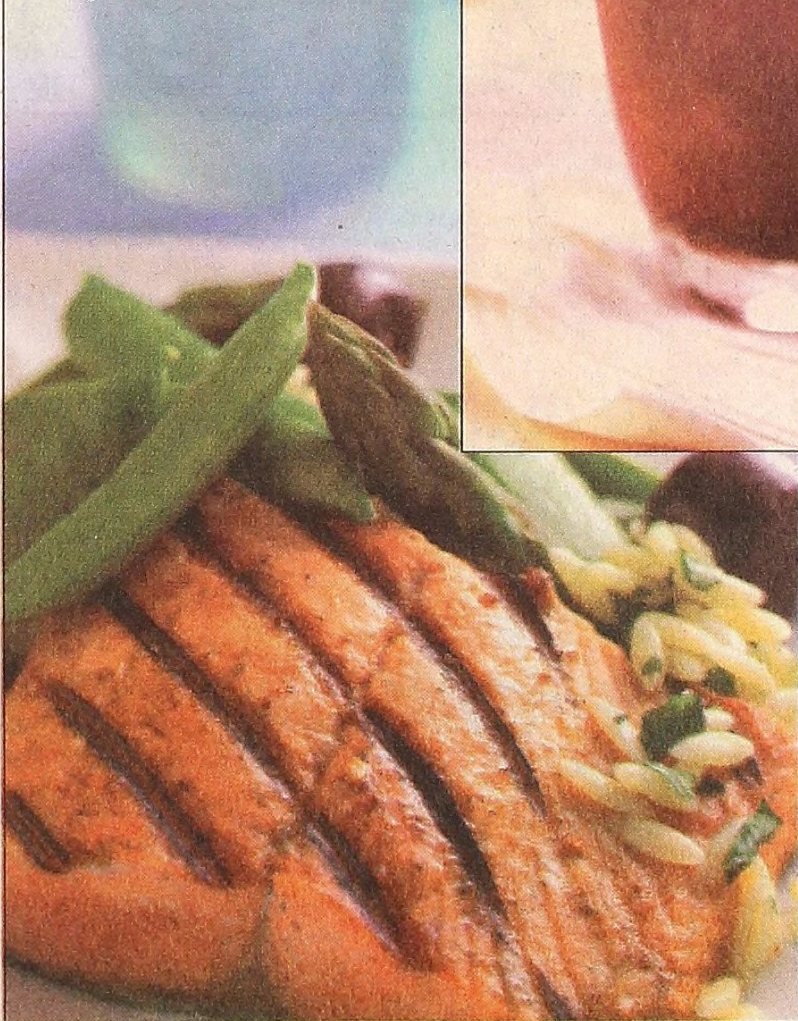
- 3 tablespoons Jose Cuervo Golden Margarita
- 1/3 cup olive oil
- 1/4 cup fresh lemon juice
- 2 teaspoons minced garlic
- 1/2 teaspoon kosher salt
- 1/2 teaspoon black pepper

In large bowl, mix orzo and herbs. Season with kosher salt and red pepper flakes. Spoon onto serving plates. Top with salmon portions. Arrange sugar snap peas, asparagus and cherries over salmon.

Whisk together vinaigrette ingredients; drizzle over salad. Serve alongside salmon and orzo.

Makes 4 servings

*Grilled Alaska
Salmon With
Herbed Orzo and
Margarita Salad*



*Northwest
Cherry Bomb
Margarita*

Chipotle-Glazed Alaska Salmon With Northwest Cherry Firecracker Salsa

- 4 Alaska salmon fillets (6 to 8 ounces each) skin on, or 1 Alaska salmon side (1-1/2 to 2 pounds)
- Olive oil, for brushing
- 1 teaspoon kosher salt
- 2 teaspoons lemon pepper seasoning

Glaze

- 1/4 cup (1/2 stick) unsalted butter, melted
- 1/4 cup Jose Cuervo Golden Margarita
- 1 tablespoon packed brown sugar
- 1 teaspoon chipotle chili powder

Salsa

- 2 cups pitted fresh sweet Northwest Cherries, halved
- 1 small yellow bell pepper, seeded and chopped
- 1/2 cup chopped green onions
- 1 small jalapeño pepper, seeded and minced
- 1 tablespoon Jose Cuervo Golden Margarita
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1/2 teaspoon chipotle chili powder
- 1 teaspoon kosher salt

To make glaze, blend melted butter, margarita, brown sugar and chili powder. Set aside.

For salsa, in large bowl combine cherries, bell pepper, onions and jalapeño. In small bowl, whisk together margarita, olive oil, chili powder and salt. Pour over salsa; stir to blend. Set aside (can be served chilled or at room temperature).

Heat grill to medium-high heat (400°F). Brush both sides of salmon with olive oil. Sprinkle flesh side with salt and lemon pepper. Grill salmon, flesh side down, 8 to 10 minutes per inch of thickness. Turn over halfway through cooking time. Brush salmon with glaze during last 1 to 2 minutes of grilling. Cook just until fish is opaque throughout.

Pour any unused glaze over salmon just before serving, and serve with salsa.

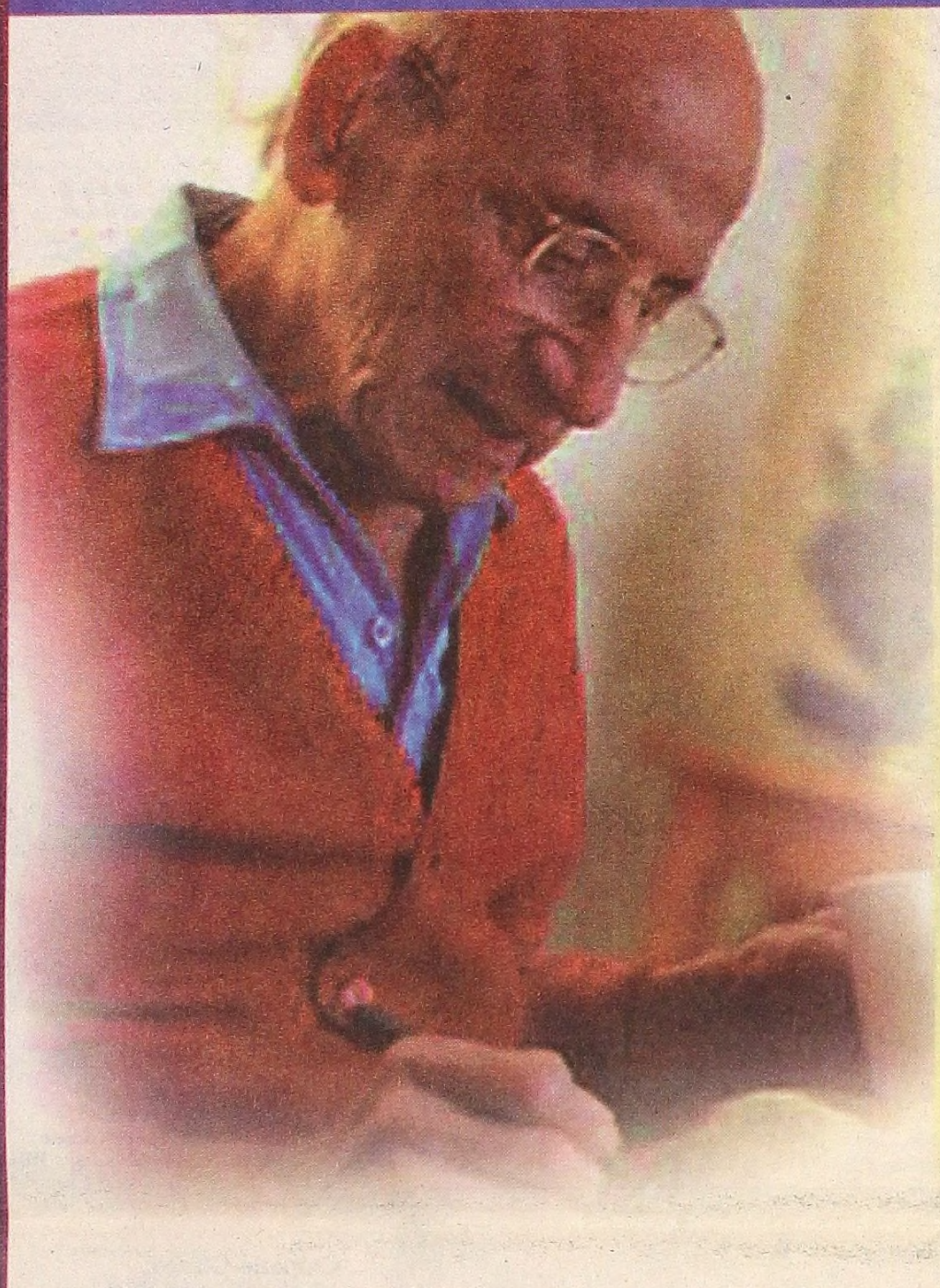
Makes 4 servings

Northwest Cherry Bomb Margarita

- 1 to 1-1/2 cups pitted sweet Northwest Cherries
- 2 cups Jose Cuervo Golden Margarita
- 1 cup cracked ice
- Juice of 1/2 lime
- Mint leaves, for garnish
- 4 fresh Northwest Cherries with stems, for garnish

Place all ingredients, except mint and 4 fresh cherries, in blender and process until smooth. Pour into 4 glasses over ice. Garnish with mint leaves and cherries.

Makes 4 servings



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